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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veterans Employment Center connects service members to jobs

RAPID CITY, S.D. - Service members, veterans and their families seeking to leverage their skills and talents in their search for job opportunities now have a single online tool for connecting themselves to meaningful career opportunities in the public and private sectors.

The Veterans Employment Center is a government-wide product that brings together a reputable cadre of employers with real job opportunities, and provides transitioning service members, Reserve Component service members, veterans and their families with the tools to translate military skills into plain language and build a profile that can be shared – in real time – with employers who have made a public commitment to hire veterans.

Job seekers can also search more than 1.2 million jobs from the private sector and includes jobs in federal, state and local governments.

The VEC provides employers with access to a vault of verified career profiles from transitioning service members, veterans and their families. Employers can search these profiles by keyword and/or geographic location to find the right fit for their organization.

Employers can also launch a public relations campaign to hire veterans by making a public hiring commitment on the VEC. They also have the option to state the number of veterans they intend to hire and update their status in achieving their goal.

The VEC also contains or links to a broad set of other informational resources designed to help employers recruit and retain talented transitioning service members, veterans and their families, such as the new DOD SkillBridge pilot program to promote civilian job training for transitioning service members.

The website H2H.jobs, which previously connected service members to connect to and find jobs with military-friendly companies, has transitioned its online capabilities to the VEC.

This transition supports the White House Joining Forces initiatives to combine federal efforts to hire veterans under one web portal and strengthens interagency collaboration among the VA, Department of Defense and Department of Labor.

H2H employment coordinators will also continue to provide quality career readiness assistance to job seekers preparing for the next civilian career.

“H2H employment coordinators will still serve the same purpose and mission as before,” said Dan Popowski, an H2H employment coordinator based at the National Guard armory in Sioux Falls. “We operate under the Hero2Hired program while utilizing the VEC to support our customers. The only change is the transition from H2H.jobs to the VEC.”

While employers and job seekers who were previously registered with H2H will need to create a new account as the two systems cannot exchange data, Popowski said both can still contact their respective Hero2Hired employment coordinators directly to get assistance.

“We are able to mesh the incredible benefits and capabilities provided by the VA, eBenefits and the VEC with the proven assistance of the employment coordinators,” Popowski said. “We now have a one-stop-shop. One place our customers can go for assistance.”

The VEC can be found at www.ebenefits.va.gov/jobs. For a tutorial on how to use the VEC, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWfhI-eSoWk.

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